

Teaching English and Citizenship at Gilchrist Center

Organized by the Gilchrist Center



Project Goal

To teach English at the Gilchrist Center at one of four different levels, including more structured classes that require registration and more informal conversation classes attended on a drop-in basis. Also, to teach an 8 week class to prepare people to pass the Citizenship exam.

Timeline for Planning

One Month Before: Sign up to teach an English class by emailing dolores.ustrell-roig@montgomerycountymd.gov.

On a Weekly Basis: For English and citizenship classes requires a minimum of 2-3 hours of planning and preparation and photocopying per week. For registration and citizenship, materials are available but for drop-in volunteers, they need to come up with the curriculum.

How Many Volunteers?

About 25 year-round. Classes start each new season.

Time Commitment

Planning time plus another 2 hours of class time for 8 weeks, plus professional development that involve teacher exchanges which involves up to an additional 4 hours per year.

Expenses

None, just transportation. The Gilchrist Center provides teaching materials.

Publicity

Volunteers don't need to do any publicity. Gilchrist Center pays all overhead costs.

Challenges

- Need a minimum of one year teaching adults
- Trying to understand the needs of the students can be hard
- Classes often have students at different levels of understanding
- Challenge of teaching adults who have already worked an 8 hour day (Keeping the materials interesting and relevant).
- You may be asked to submit a sample lesson plan

Results

- 80 percent of students complete the class
- The satisfaction of know you are helping people learn a language and/or become a US citizen
- Seeing students achieve their goals (they have better communication with their boss and their children's teachers, are better able to find a job or to apply to college).

Tips/Key Steps:

- Keep in mind it requires a time commitment
- Any knowledge of lesson planning is helpful.
- This project can be used to fulfill teaching requirements in a degree or certificate program. It's called TSOL (Teaching English to Students of Other Languages).

Points of Interest

- > Particularly good for people who are interested in a cross-cultural experience and in meeting people from all over the world.

The class involves American history and government as well as reading, writing and speaking. The class is all in English and you would need an intermediate English level to take the class.

